WITH THE CURLERS IN CANADA

D. R. GORDON

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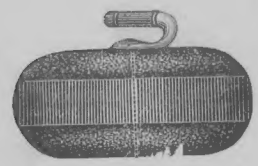

D. R. GORDON.

BATHGATE: JUNE 1903.

PREFACE.

THE narrative of the following pages is a lecture delivered by Provost Gordon in aid of funds to build a United Free Church in Bathgate. J. A. Robertson-Durham, Esq., of Boghead, Vice-President of the R.C.C. Club, occupied the Chair.

The sum of £42 secured thereby, after paying expenses, testifies to the interest in this worthy object, and to the widespread desire to hear from one of the Curlers his experiences and impressions of the tour.

If it serves in the slightest to awaken an interest in Canada and its great possibilities, and in our kith and kin under the Stars and Stripes, it will perhaps have done a little to strengthen the ties of affection and goodwill between us and our brethren in the western hemisphere.

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THE following are the names of the team selected by the Royal Caledonian Curling Club to proceed to Canada to engage in friendly rivalry with the Curlers there :—

No.	NAME.	CLUB.
1.	Rev. J. KERR, M.A., F.R.S.E., F.S.A. (SCOT.) *Captain.*	*Dirleton.*
2.	Provost BALLANTYNE,	*Peebles.*
3.	Major BERTRAM,	*Medwin.*
4.	R. BRAMWELL, Esq.,	*Upper Nithsdale.*
5.	ROBERT COUSIN, Esq.,	*Merchiston.*
6.	A. E. CAMPBELL, Esq.,	*Gourock.*
7.	Major SCOTT DAVIDSON	*Hercules.*
8.	Provost GORDON,	*Bathgate.*
9.	E. GIBSON, Esq.,	*Biggar.*
10.	R. HUSBAND, Esq., *Hon. Secy. and Treas.*	*Dunfermline.*
11.	W. HENDERSON, Esq.,	*Kinnochtry.*
12.	R. JOHNSTON, Esq.,	*Upper Annandale*
13.	Dr KIRK,	*Bathgate.*
14.	D. BENTLEY MURRAY, Esq.,	*Airthrey Castle.*
15.	T. MACMILLAN, Esq.,	*Glencairn.*
16.	D. MURRAY, Esq.,	*Kelvindock.*
17.	JAMES M'GREGOR, Esq.,	*Camperdown.*
18.	HENRY PRAIN, Esq.,	*Castle Huntly.*
19.	D. PROVAN, Esq.,	*Craiglockhart.*
20.	G. DEANS RITCHIE, Esq.,	*Broughton United.*
21.	MARK SANDERSON, Esq.,	*Duddingston.*
22.	A. T. SIMSON, Esq.,	*Melrose.*
23.	J. SIMPSON, Esq.,	*Orwell.*
24.	AND. F. SMITH, Esq.,	*Stenhouse and Carron.*

WITH THE CURLERS IN CANADA.

CHAPTER I.

THE SEND-OFF.

Provost Gordon said—The idea of a team of Scottish Curlers visiting Canada has long been cherished by Scotsmen and their descendants in the land of the Maple leaf. Ever since curling was introduced into Canada by the Scotsmen who adopted Canada as their home, the wish has often been wafted across the sea for a meeting of devotees of "besom and channel stane" of Scotland and Canada. It has not been confined to Canada, for in many places in the United States curlers have also shewn the desire for a visit of Scotsmen.. The movement took its rise some two years ago. Its inception was due to a speech made at the annual meeting of the Royal Club by the Rev. Dr Barclay of Montreal, who was for some time minister of Linlithgow, and afterwards of St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh. After this the matter was taken up heartily by Mr Davidson Smith, the genial and able secretary of the Royal Club, assisted by a band of enthusiasts who warmly supported

the movement. It was felt that the full tide of opportunity had come with the splendid response of the Canadians to the necessities of the Mother Country, in sending such splendid contingents of her gallant sons to fight side by side with the other sons of Empire for the best of all causes—the broadening of the bounds of human freedom for Boer, Briton and Black alike in South Africa. In sending a team to extend to Canadians the hand of curling brotherhood, after such a proof of their loyalty and affection, for the dear old Mother Country, we showed in the warmest possible manner our appreciation of their loyalty and devotion, not merely by the symbol of words, however beautifully expressed, but by the hearty hand-clasp of brotherly affection and mutual esteem of brother curlers. It was felt, too, that in the year of our good King's coronation a visit of Scottish curlers would not only emphasise the strong feeling of loyalty to the throne which marked the life of the Canadians, but would serve to draw closer the bonds of still warmer affection to the dear homeland. Such, briefly, may be accepted as the inception of the movement. At last annual meeting of the Royal Club the action of the Provisional Committee was approved by a grant of money towards the project. Subscriptions from clubs and others interested and from members of the team made the success of the tour as good as assured. Volunteers were called for and between two and three hundred responded. The committee of selection thought it advisable to send men representative of the different districts of

the country, instead of rinks, who would undoubtedly have played better than men thrown together with varying conceptions of play. The team of twenty-five men ultimately selected was fairly representative of various walks of life. Bathgate Club was specially honoured in the selection of two of its members—Dr Kirk and myself. Many clubs entertained their representatives before leaving, and Bathgate Club was not behind in doing us the same honour. The send-off at Bathgate Station by a large number of curlers and townsmen was most hearty and enthusiastic, the cheers of those assembled being punctuated by fog signals exploding as the train steamed out of the station. A great assemblage of curlers and other friends filled the platform of the Caledonian Princes Street Station, Edinburgh, to see us off, and every good wish was expressed for the safety and success of the team. Leaving our warm-hearted friends our train soon sped southward on the journey. We received additional members of the team on board our corridor carriage, including Mrs and Miss Ballantyne of Peebles, who accompanied Provost Ballantyne throughout the tour. The time spent in the journey was pleasant, every one being pent up with expectation and enthusiasm. Many settled down to take a mental note of their companions, while others were as happy as school boys let loose from school. Soon Liverpool was reached, and there we were met by the curlers of the great seaport of Liverpool, who, to the skirl of the bagpipe, formed in procession and led us into the Exchange Hotel, where we were after-

wards entertained to dinner by the Liverpool Clubs. Accompanying us to Liverpool and at dinner were Mr Davidson Smith, the Royal Club secretary, Mr Gemmel, and Mr Lindsay, who made the arrangements for the travelling. The dinner was a sumptuous one, and the speeches made were expressive of every good wish for a safe voyage and good-luck, a very happy and fraternal evening being spent. As we were timed to embark the next afternoon the team were conveyed by overhead railway and other means of locomotion round the docks and city in the early part of the day, and ultimately all found themselves on board the s.s. "Bavarian," of the Allan Line, a splendid steamer of 10,000 tons. After a visit to our quarters and bidding good-bye to friends who had come to wish us bon voyage, many sent letters or those interesting love-tipped messages on illustrated post-cards to relatives or others. The storm cone was hoisted in the city, indicating a gale raging at sea, and it soon spread among the passengers that no attempt would be made to pass out of dock until the gale moderated. The novelty kept many late on deck in the expectation of seeing the great ship navigated through the intricate passage of docks, but ultimately in the "wee short hours ayont the twal" we sought rest in sleep. Rising early to see and catch the impressions of life, our team was astir, but many betook themselves to the dining-room without going on the upper deck. The vessel never having left the dock, some joker suggested that their voyage so far had been a very smooth one, that one hundred miles or more must

GROUP OF EMIGRANTS ON BOARD S.S. BAVARIAN.

now be covered, and if all the voyage were to be as enjoyable, the sea passage would be a delightful experience. This joke, as most of you are aware through the medium of "The West Lothian Courier," has been used against Dr Kirk and myself, who were reported to have had an imaginary conversation over a bottle of champagne. The dialogue was, of course, a pure invention, and, as you also know, we are both given to drinking nothing much stronger than the water from the Bathgate hills. Our voyage was a pleasant one. Some fell victims to sea-sickness, but the majority kept well. Curling on deck by playing wooden discs in rinks was a daily occupation, the losers contributing to a fund for the Liverpool Hospital. Many a time we witnessed the dolphin's hurdling race with the ship. Like schoolboys running alongside a carriage they kept up with the ship for some miles, ever leaping out of the water, diving and swimming, until having satisfied their curiosity, or, as I think, their delight with their passing visitor the "Bavarian," they disappeared. Our passage was a very good one, the sea-going qualities of the "Bavarian" being excellent. What must ever be a very unique experience was the holding of a Curling Court at sea, where the team were initiated in the mysteries of curling, and many Canadian fellow-passengers and ship's officers were passed through the Court. Part of this procedure is the fining of everyone many times for real or imaginary offences against My Lord the presiding officer, Mr Pearson of Sheffield, who was visiting Canada to witness the curling of the team. The money collected in

the stoup in fines was then put up for auction and sold to the highest bidder—Mr Mark Sanderson of Leith, a member of the Lothians Rink, who is with us here to-night. The last bid fetched four guineas, the money going to the Liverpool Seaman's Hospital. In making all the arrangements for the historic Court, in acting as its chief officer, and instructing the new-made curlers in all the mysteries of the curling craft and giving them the curler's grip, my skip, Mr Robert Cousin, who, I am pleased to say is also present with us, greatly distinguished himself. Christmas was spent at sea. Mr Kerr, the captain of the team, conducted a service, and it was much enjoyed. The collection, together with the sum raised from a subsequent concert, was handed over to the hospital fund. About this period one of our team, Mr Smith of Carron, suffered an accident which incapacitated him from playing in any of the matches. During the latter part of the voyage we were enveloped in a fog near the Newfoundland coast, and the regular sounding of the foghorn created a feeling of much anxiety, at least to persons who had had no similar experience, but everyone had confidence that Captain Wallace and his officers and men were doing their utmost for the safety of the passengers and ship. It appears that observations of the sun are taken every day at noon to ascertain the exact position of the vessel and the course steered. For three days the sun was never seen on account of the fog, and it was in this weather that we were run so close to the mainland. Seeing this the captain at once knew his position, and

steered for his destination. I must say in fairness to Captain Wallace that he was in no way to blame for the incident which, getting into the newspapers, may have caused a flutter of excitement at home.

CHAPTER II.

AMONGST THE BLUE NOSES IN NOVA SCOTIA.

Our delight at an early landing at Halifax kept us on the outlook for those lights of land which serve as beacons to our mariners, and our hearts were glad at the prospect of a safe arrival in Nova Scotia. The harbour of Halifax is world-famous, having ten square miles of safe anchorage; the basin terminates at a distance of nine miles from the city, and is navigable for the whole distance. Here a thousand ships may rest secure but a little way from the broad ocean highway which unites the Eastern and the Western worlds. We see the strong fortifications everywhere, and are reminded that this is a British naval port and a garrison town. Its population is 40,000, and British in a very pronounced degree. Its commercial relations with the mother country have been very extensive, and the family ties between the people of Halifax and those of Scotland are very numerous. The Citadel, 256 feet above the harbour level, is the crowning height of Halifax. Its buildings are mostly made of wood, but many houses and public edifices are built of prettily coloured brick. It is a wealthy city, and its business men have long been noted for their reliability and honourable dealing. The commercial interests

have always been most extensive, and craft of all kinds and of every nation are to be seen in its waters. We arrived in Halifax on Sunday. When we approached the quay a large number of curlers and others awaited the arrival of the ship, and many signals soon indicated that loved ones and friends were discovered. There was one figure in the group who attracted our attention, namely, Colonel Stevenson, who had come all the way from the beautiful city of Montreal to offer us a warm welcome from the curlers of the Province of Quebec. The Sunday arrival prevented our Canadian curlers from giving vent to their enthusiastic welcome, but it was most hearty and warm in its nature, and hundreds were ready to offer us every service. The gallant Colonel Stevenson, who is a "young" man of eighty, was not many minutes in knowing every member of the team by sight as he knew them by name. His happy and witty remarks, many of them already well-known to you through the press, made him most beloved by everybody. Seated in sleighs we were driven off to the Queen's Hotel, where an excellent luncheon awaited us. Before leaving the quay, however, we took leave of many Canadian and other friends, who had been most companionable, and who were leaving for various parts of Canada, some going to Vancouver. On Sunday evening Mr Kerr preached in one of the churches, at which our team attended. Afterwards Provost and Mrs Ballantyne entertained the team and some Canadian guests to supper on the occasion of their silver wedding, when they received

many hearty congratulations. These occasions are the cause of many reflections on my part and raise in my mind a considerable doubt of my being present at my own golden wedding. We were offered the use of the rinks the next day for curling practice. Imagine the dismay of the team to find they could play their newly-made stones only about half - way up the rink on account of the sharp rings, which cut the ice. Then we had to play out of a hack made in the ice instead of from a crampit. Playing in covered rinks where the directions could with difficulty be heard through the close proximity of the players, and also of crowds of ladies and gentlemen, very excited and enthusiastic over their Scottish visitors you will see was no easy task for the lads with the Tam o' Shanters. The rink, itself, let me explain, consists of a main building to the street, containing club-room, committee-room, ladies' room, reading-room, smoking and luncheon rooms, and the best lavatory arrangements, with the walls decorated with portraits of Presidents or other officials or noted curlers, and in handsome cases were the treasured trophies of the club. The club premises are all lighted by electricity and heated throughout, making an attractive place of resort and affording every comfort for both sexes. Inside there is the rink proper, a larger building by far than this church, containing ice space for three, four or six rinks with platforms, with rails all round, and galleries with seats for sightseers. This rink was most beautifully decorated, the motto in Gaelic which not one man of

Halifax Curling Rink.

our team could read being translated into English, "Five million welcomes from New Scotia to Old Scotia." The decorations of Scottish Lions, shields, Union Jacks, and the emblems of Canada and the United States most enchantingly entwined, and numerous scrolls with the usual curling expressions were most gorgeous and tasteful. We were driven to and from the hotel to every appointed rendezvous; we were offered the free use of every Club in the city; we were entertained by the St Andrew's Society, which exists to help Scotsmen down in their luck, and we were treated in every way as distinguished visitors. New Year's afternoon was spent in visiting our lady friends—the custom is for the ladies to receive gentlemen on that day. When necessary we played as often as three times a day against Halifax and other clubs in Nova Scotia. Many came long distances to play with us there. A rise in the barometer made the ice duller than usual for a period, and the Halifax players, never competing unless under perfect conditions, then got the worst of the play with us. We were in no way disconcerted with the damp ice, but you can believe me that on their usual keen ice they had much the best of the games. The players from Pictou and outlying towns in Nova Scotia were a splendid band of curlers. Their excellent curling gave us many a red face. Permit me here to explain that the curling stones used in Canada are similar in size and make to what we use in this country. They play not so much by swinging the stone as by lifting it slowly backward, and put it away on the keen chequered ice by a gentle push, with the

out or in-turn as directed. If a player is wanted to play to the tee by a draw, he must borrow or take an aim about 30 to 36 inches on either side of the tee; according to the turn and the bias of the turn it arrives at the tee. They can balance the weight and play regularly well. Provided a winning stone is on the tee and directly guarded, that will afford you little or no protection for your shot, as they can balance the weight and turn so sweetly that their stones resemble more a bowling green bowl with its bias than a curling stone. Before a game is started the club keeper sprinkles all the ice diagonally with warm water from a long cross rose, afterwards crossing it in the opposite direction. The operation is very quickly done, and the water freezes as it reaches the ice in small sparkling icicles, presenting you with ice which is most picturesque to the eye. This sprinkling, I am told, enables the curlers by the aid these ice drops give to the bias on the stones, to take shots of greater bias. In Halifax we encountered our first experience of heated rooms. Our heavy clothing which was par excellence for outside wear was not quite so suitable for their heated houses. Every room, every church, every public hall, every tramway car, every railway carriage is heated to a temperature of 60 to 70 degrees, so that given ordinary clothing indoors and heavier over-coating for outside wear, one would experience the utmost comfort. Every house in Canada is heated by a large stove in the basement of the house, which is kept burning night and day over the winter months; the pipes radiat-

ing to every room and corridor maintain an even temperature in the home. One might expect that people going out from this high temperature into the cold air outside would contract colds, but the addition of a warm fur or other cloak maintains the body at a normal heat while the crisp air adds an invigorating tone. The method of serving food with such multitudinous small dishes with every conceivable vegetable served up separately to each individual was rather trying to us. However, we soon got accustomed to the situation, and you may believe me that we lost fewer games at the dining-table than on the rink. Their menus are comprehensive in their variety of food, putting one in mind of a catalogue of a modern museum. This, in my opinion, is to be accounted for by the population of Canada being so cosmopolitan, each desiring their own variety of food. Such new dainties as moose, carribou, rheindeer and other Canadian specialties of the rod and gun were very much enjoyed. In Halifax they have a splendid service of electric cars, the power being generated from the river. Their houses are lit by electricity, and every house is fitted up with telephones. The citizens generally took the greatest interest in our visit and great hospitality was shown to us by the people. Such was their kindness that on leaving the place we held a very strong opinion that Halifax would be difficult to beat in their kindly treatment to the team. The curling clubs of Halifax varied their entertainment by transporting us on the railway to the suburbs, where we dined. Here a curling court was instituted.

Many curlers from St John, the outlying portions of Nova Scotia, and from the Halifax clubs, were initiated into all the mysteries of the curling brotherhood. All will ever look back with pleasure and amusement on this interesting function. I feel sure that many Canadians, like the bearers of the fiery cross in Highland history, will in years to come hand on the ceremonies to many Canadian curling enthusiasts. It was at Halifax that Mr Thomson, from Manitoba, who is a native of Edinburgh, met us and welcomed us in name of the Canadian Government to Canada. He travelled with us and made arrangements for our travel and comfort.

CHAPTER III.

THE ATTRACTIONS OF ST JOHN.

The Railway Company offered us free travelling on their track, and this offer was accepted to enable us to alter our visiting plan; but we had taken out and paid for tickets by another route upon which it may be possible to get a rebate. Leaving Halifax we bade adieu to a large concourse of curlers and other friends, including ladies who had gathered to wish us good-bye. To use a familiar expression, we had a struggle with our feelings to tear ourselves away from the most hospitable people—for in odes of welcome and great kindnesses at their homes they had completely won all our hearts. In this we might have with truth exclaimed—"Kindness in woman—not their beauteous looks—shall win our love; but in their case changed to this effect—"Kindness in man and woman with their beautiful looks won our love." This being our first experience of a Canadian Pullman car, we were much delighted to find ourselves in one of these travelling palaces. The Railway Company very kindly placed a special first-class car at our service. The luxuriance, comfort, and accommodation provided in them are astonishing. They are all comfortably heated, and afford freedom in travelling throughout the train. The cars are adapted for being made into excellent beds with upper

and lower berths, and have smoking or lounge apartments. Railway travelling in Canada and the States is most convenient and comfortable—even luxurious—making short distance travelling very agreeable and long distance journeys a pleasure. In ordinary trains there is always a dining-carriage where you dine on the Bouffet principle, but on the long distance trains there is always a dining-car where the service is as perfect as in any first-class hotel. The country passed en route for St John was carefully scanned. While passing many parts cleared from primeval forest, there was everywhere to be seen the settlers' wooden houses with housing for their animals, and out in the fields fairly large barns. On stopping at a station our train would be boarded by the curlers from a more distant place, who had come very long distances to meet us and be able to offer us while travelling towards their town or village their welcome to Canada, some expressing their great regret that we could not wait a day to curl with them and accept their hospitality. At Monckton we were handed a photograph of the "Bore" at that place from the curlers there. Leaving Monckton we proceeded through most interesting scenery, which time will not allow me to touch upon, and we arrived at St John's City, in New Brunswick. Here we were met by a large concourse of curlers and New Brunswickers, who extended to us a most enthusiastic welcome, and afterwards driving us to a charming hotel. The City of St John on the Bay of Fundy, at the mouth of the River St John, has a population of 50,000, and is the winter port

of Canada for the shipment of western products to Great Britain and other countries on the other side of the ocean. It presents itself to the eye to-day as a most beautiful, modernly built, commercial and up-to-date city. In 1877 upwards of 200 acres of the city, comprising 1600 houses, were destroyed by fire, but the new buildings now erected are all of pretty brick or stone, and its appearance will bear comparison with any city of its size in Canada. St John is first of all a commercial city, and a busy one. The days of wooden shipbuilding have passed, and lumber, though still a large item, is no longer the great factor in the general prosperity. New and varied industries have arisen, and, being centrally situated in relation to the population of the Maritime provinces, it is the terminus of three railways, and these act as feeders with the rivers in bringing in the products of a vast area for shipment to Britain and other parts. St John was the port from which were made the winter shipments of hay, horses, and other supplies for South Africa during the late war The St John river is navigable for 200 miles. The city was founded by the American Loyalists in 1784, at the close of the War of Independence. Some 45,000 crossed into Canada at that time. In the centre of the city is the cemetery where lie those staunch loyalists who gave up everything except their loyalty to be able to live under the free and protecting folds of the Union Jack. Looking to the rapid rise of St John after the fire and its steady progress in industry, manufactures and commerce, can it be doubted that those high and noble charac-

teristics have been transferred into the life and character of the city and made it one of the handsomest and most charming spots in Canada? We visited a large lumber and pulp mill run by an American firm. The ease and facility with which the timber was conveyed by endless chains and travelling benches, and cut lengthwise and crosswise until every portion was relegated to its own place, all conducted with such speed, precision, and regularity, spoke of the immensity of their lumber trade and of the resources of the country. The pulp mill was next visited, and here wood pulp is largely manufactured for the making of paper and other materials in very large quantities. The manager of the lumber mill was one of the partners. He was most kind in showing us all the details of the business. We made visits to what are called the Reversible Falls The phenomenon is easily understood when the nature of the river in reference to its outlet is considered. The river St John rises in Maine and flows 450 miles ere it discharges into the harbour on the Bay of Fundy. It drains an area of some 17 million acres. Yet this great body of water is emptied into the sea through a rocky chasm a little over 500 feet wide. There a fall is formed. It is a peculiar fall. At high tide the sea has a descent of 15 feet into the river and runs backwards about 90 miles, and at low tide the river has a like fall into the sea. It is only at half tide or slack water that this part of the river can be navigated in safety. Across this wild tumult of water is stretched the Suspension

Bridge, 70 feet above the highest tide, with a span of 64 feet. A short distance above is the Cantilever Bridge connecting the railway systems. In passing out to see the Falls we observed a granite monument in course of erection on a height overlooking the river. This was to commemorate the brave Canadian soldiers who had fallen for Queen and Empire in South Africa. You see in this one of the features of Canadian life. They think and act quickly in anything which they approve of. We were told many stories at the different places. This was one. A hunter and trapper was cornered by a grizzly bear. He was in a pretty tight place, for he had only a bowie knife wherewith to defend himself, so he thought it was time for a prayer. Down he went on his knees, and said:—"Oh, Lord, I'm a mean cuss to call on you only when I'm fixed up this way with a 'bear' comin' down right on me, but I don't want to be a mean cuss any more than I can help, so Lord, all I ask is this, you stand on one side and don't you help that bear and You'll see the finest fight You ever saw in the American forest." We played a good many curling games in St John, although not so many as had been arranged. The barometer rose some degrees above freezing point the first day, and our friends thought it better to show us some of the sights of the place, such as the Falls, lumber and pulp mills, and other parts of the city. Some rinks of our team had played on the damp ice and won, and as this was the invariable result on dull ice, we thought a truce quite a sensible arrange-

ment, and one most enjoyable to us. The great banquet given to the team was a most brilliant affair. Many Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament and representative men of all classes were present. The dinner was first-class. The speeches especially by the Members of the Government were of the very highest order and were never excelled at any other place. The entertainments by private individuals to various groups of the team were excellent. Mr Kelty Jones entertained many members of the team at his lovely home. The Judges of the Supreme Court and the Doctors Walker showing us similar kindness. At their "Sing Songs," or smoking concerts, the St Johnites introduced a novelty to our notice. When a gentleman was called upon to speak or sing, he would stand up but before allowing him to proceed the company would shout out "What's the matter with Husband," followed by the reply "He's all right, you bet," adding the words "Tin-kettle, tin can, Ki-i, Ki-oo." This was evidently intended to brush away traces of nervousness; frequently it was followed by their singing—

"See him smiling, see him smiling,
See him smiling just now,
Just now see him smiling,
See him smiling just now,"

adding other verses of "He's a Curler," or other appppropriate reference. At a special service in the Presbyterian Church the minister extended a cordial welcome to the curlers, and afterwards Mr Kerr preached to a crowded congrega-

tion. A great crowd of well-wishers gathered at the station to bid us farewell, and many amusing scenes marked our leave-taking. Many links of affection had evidently been forged in St John, judging by the many endearing looks that were directed to the braw lads frae auld Scotland.

CANADIAN IRON PLAYERS.

(From an Old Photo.)

CHAPTER IV.

IN PICTURESQUE QUEBEC.

St John was soon left behind, and after a long journey by train, which was a perfect rest from the day and night routine which we had experienced, we arrived at Levis. This is the railway station on the south bank of the St Lawrence. From here we are transported across the river, which, on account of the ice, is kept open only by the constant voyages of a strongly built vessel which conveys passengers, goods, horses, cattle, and every kind of vehicle across stream. The crashing of the ice by the passage of the steamer gives us quite an arctic feeling, for indeed the barometer had fallen 10 to 15 degrees below zero. I was attracted by the steam rising off the water, which I attributed to the temperature of the river being higher than the surrounding air. We were met by representatives of various clubs at Levis and waiting our arrival at Quebec were numerous curlers and other friends, who arranged for conveying all our baggage and curling stones to the hotel and curling rink. Sleighs were also in readiness and, accompanied by our hosts, we made the steep ascent of the heights of Quebec, through the city to that most beautiful and picturesque of hotels, The Chateau Frontenac, a handsome fire-proof hotel built in French

Renaissance style of architecture, occupying a matchless site on Dufferin Terrace; built, owned and conducted by the enterprising Canadian Pacific Railway, where the luxury of travel is exemplified. Quebec is beyond description. It is unique among the cities of the continent. No picture can do it justice. It is the Gibraltar of North America. Our thoughts turn naturally to those great struggles between Britain and France for the possession of the North American Continent to the plains of Abraham, where Wolfe fell in 1759. We feel as if we stood upon historic ground. The cliffs 300 feet high, the citadel, the spires and the grand old city which is so majestic retains that halo of romance that surrounded it in early years. The past and the present are inseparably interwoven. Everywhere you realise its grandeur; everywhere are monuments of a strange and eventful history. There is place after place in Quebec where one may step from the bustle of to-day back into the seventeenth century. One may write books on Quebec and its history would be incomplete. The task of telling about the churches and religious institutions would of itself be a prodigious one. The Bascillica was begun in 1647 when Louis XIV. was King, and the Star of France shed a bright light over the Eastern and Western worlds. Other beautiful churches and religious institutions, with their rich treasures of the greatest masters, are a theme in themselves. In Quebec the past and the present meet together. Everywhere have the horrors of war been felt, and to-day all is so

peaceful that the thought of war seems out of harmony with the scene. Poets have sung and historians have written of Quebec, but Quebec is a poem that no language can express; its memories linger in the mind like the sweet remembrance of harmonious music heard in the distant past. Its population is 70,000, mostly French Canadians. The city is the capital of the Province, and the seat of the Provincial Government. There are spacious docks and wharves, a graving dock and all the equipment of a large and thriving port. A large export trade in timber is carried on, and there is an important leather industry, including the manufacture of boots and shoes. A high level bridge is now under construction across the St Lawrence above the city. This public work will have a progressive and beneficial influence on the development of the country along the north side of the St Lawrence by rendering it easily accessible at all times of the year. The nearest railway bridge over the river is at Montreal, 177 miles distant. In Quebec we played several games. In that city they are all iron players, both ladies and gentlemen. The gentlemen had got together a collection of curling stones, or granites, as they call them, for a few weeks, to be able to play with us on our conditions. Here we were invited to engage in a match with the ladies—two rinks a side. There were heard the usual voices who counselled that no match should be played for fear the colours of the team would be lowered. Some thought that the Scottish tartan had been very severely torn up to that date, and any further discomfiture in that direction

would not greatly matter. The prevailing opinion was that eight bachelors should be sent out to meet the lady curlers. I had the honour of leading the ice in one of the rinks. The conditions were that we should adopt the small curling irons, which resemble a toy tea kettle, beautifully turned on concave bottoms. They weigh about 18 or 20 lbs. The ladies could play them most accurately and it required all the balance and skill of the gentlemen to hold their own with the ladies. The rinks were surrounded by all the youth and beauty of Quebec, who enjoyed the novel spectacle of big brawny Scots in knickerbockers and tam o' shanters contesting for all they were worth for supremacy. As you know, victory rested with the ladies, who well deserved it; but let me tell you that the fair veterans of the curling rink were cheered and encouraged by every one on playing an excellent shot, and that the Scottish team did everything possible to render the play of the ladies successful. Every one was more delighted than another with their victory. Like a vanquished general who hands over his sword to the conqueror, I handed over my curling besom or cowe to the skip of the ladies' rink to be hung in her boudoir with a Gordon tartan ribbon tied round it, in token of surrender and as a remembrance of the historic meeting between the sons of the Thistle and the daughters of the glorious Maple leaf. The curling clubs entertained the visiting team at the hotel at Montmorency Falls, whither we were conveyed by electric tramway, some miles below Quebec. The height of the Falls is 250 feet. The city of Quebec is lighted and the

tramways are run by electric power generated at these Falls. The dinner was served in a hotel once the residence of the late Duke of Kent. Speeches and songs always terminating with a fervent singing of God Save the King showing the intensity of their loyalty, brought that part of the proceedings to a close. Afterwards all assembled outside at the ice slide. This slide is erected like the wooden platform of a water chute, which many will have seen at Glasgow and London Exhibitions. The whole of the woodwork is covered with ice, and the ice track is continued for 300 or 400 yards. For this sport most of the Canadians, both ladies and gentlemen were picturesquely dressed. The toboggans are kept very busy. Those who want to slide sit down with crossed legs on the front of the toboggan, holding only a rope fixed to the central front. This rope afterwards serves to pull the toboggan up to the next starting point, which in this case was a return slide. Two people participated in this sport, the person occupying the rear or steering part lying on the after part available, keeping his one leg out behind and off the ice to act as a helm to navigate the toboggan in safety to its terminus. The pair of lightning navigators were more frequently a lady in front and a gentleman steering. I noticed that the gentleman had learned by long practice to get his head affectionately esconsed in the loving arm of the damsel. Pushing off the toboggan the pair shoot away like lightning down the steep incline, and in a trice, should no nervousness or accident overtake them, they are at the end of the slide.

Many of our team were induced to try this exhilarating sport, and so keen did some of them become that many of them returned over the course again and again. I noticed too, that only those sought a repetition of the experience who were greatly admired by the fair sex, and I am bound to say the married gentlemen of the team were, as they ever are, the knights of romance who enjoyed the novel sport, the best. I must confess I felt a little scared at first, but thinking I might graduate to the posture of the encircling loving arm I was induced to try the slide. My foot or hand, however, had touched the ice in our descent and I was, with a gentleman guide, hurled into the snow wreath before getting half the distance. The effect of this sliding through the dry, cold air at such a velocity is to completely rejuvenate one, and after a night's sliding one feels as young and frisky as an early hare. We leave Quebec with a feeling of gratitude to the curling clubs, and greatly delighted with its beauty and surrounding scenes.

CHAPTER V.

THE DELIGHTS OF MONTREAL.

When leaving Halifax we were told that great as had been our reception there we had just to wait until we entered St John to see how much better they would receive us. This kindly sentiment, however, gathered force as we proceeded, and the gallant Colonel Stevenson had every confidence that Montreal would rise to its highest traditions as the most wealthy and beautiful city of Canada in giving the curling team a right royal welcome. It was with the utmost pleasure therefore we crossed the St Lawrence river on one of those beautiful bridges and passed into the station of Montreal. Our train was some hours late in arriving; this, let me say, was quite a common experience both in Canada and the States, and it was not till one a.m., or an hour past midnight that we were greeted with the cheers of many hundreds of Montrealers, curlers, and numerous friends and ladies, who had waited many weary hours to give us a rousing welcome. I may explain that the ladies of our party were most kindly welcomed by a deputation of ladies, who did everything in their power to make the visit of the Scottish ladies enjoyable, and the same kindness was shown in every place visited. After the preliminary introductions to the representative curlers, the

Caledonian Rink and Ice Arch, Montreal.

crowd raised cheer upon cheer for the team. A band of pipers stirred the air with the notes of the pibroch. We were driven to the Windsor Hotel, one of the most beautiful and extensive of Canada, pipers seated beside the drivers, playing for all they were worth such tunes as "Whaur hae ye been a' the day, bonnie laddie, Highland laddie." Passing through the streets to our rendezvous many Montrealers wondered at the Scottish invasion, but the night being chilly, I thought the pipers' fingers must have been rather cold. The great hall of the Windsor Hotel, capable of accommodating some hundreds, was quite filled with welcoming hosts, and everyone was giving evidence of the warmest welcome. So great was the enthusiasm that many of the curlers and members of the team engaged in a Scots Reel to the music of the pipes. All were filled with the utmost delight, and many of the lady guests living in the hotel, attracted by the unique spectacle, were interested spectators from the staircase and landings. About 2 a.m. we were all served with a welcome supper by the curlers, which was greatly appreciated after our long journey. Montreal is a thoroughly cosmopolitan city, representing all the varied phases of life, commerce and industry of their diversified Continent. This city is the Metropolis of Canada, the largest, most populous and wealthiest city of the fair Dominion. Most admirably situated on the left bank of the noble St Lawrence, the city is the outlet for all the rich products of the interior, which are conveyed by the great

chain of river, lake, and canal navigation. Montreal and its earlier history are in the mists. She was founded no doubt by the Indians. It was won from savagery by the heroism and pluck of the gallant sons of France, whose inhabitants have lived under the protecting folds of the Union Jack since its Cession to Britain in 1760. Its distance from the sea is as great as the length of Great Britain. About 900 sea-going vessels and 7000 inland vessls arrive annually. It has great exports of cattle, lumber, grain, flour and meal. Its varied manufactures find a ready market in every part of the world, and its merchants are as enterprising and up-to-date as those to be found anywhere. Its population of 350,000 moving onward with ever increasing numbers is varied. Both the French and English languages are spoken. Everywhere there are signs of progress by a sagacious, enterprising, clever people. The public buildings, the cathedrals and churches, the university, the hospitals, the shops, the hotels, the clubs, the railway stations, the harbour, the banks, the insurance offices, the manufactories ,the streets, the residences, the magnificent sleighs, the electric tramways, their telephonic and telegraphic arrangements, all testify of a city of impulse and energy, controlled by great and good men, working to carry it forward on the road of destiny. Mount Royal, 700 feet above the level of the harbour, gives the place its name. One of the many delightful drives was to Mount Royal in Montreal Royal sleighs. I call them

Toboggan Slide—Mount Royal.

Royal sleighs because it appeared to me they were the most handsome and luxuriant of any we saw in Canada, while the price of hiring them, when any Canadian would allow you to pay for it, which was seldom, was moderate. The drive to Mount Royal, accompanied by delightful hosts, who pointed out every notable building or residence, was most enjoyable and interesting. If you stand on Mount Royal and look on the beautiful city spread out beneath, the eye is filled with delight at the magnificent prospect. It is a view that fills one with wonder and charm. There is much to tempt one into the widest realms of fancy and poetic description, but I must restrain myself and join in the jubilation that fills the Montrealers, possessing such a lovely panorama. Here we were further instructed in tobogganing—perhaps the most popular of all their winter sports. I should think he would be a curious and indifferent individual who could without a thrill of delight stand at the head of Mountain Park slide and contemplate a flying trip down the icy chute. Its head is on the northern brow of the mountain; its foot half a mile down in the hollows. At this place most of the team enjoyed this most delightful and invigorating experience of a toboggan slide. The toboggans were larger and longer than at Montmorency and as the track was confined with snow walls one could go without a partner acting as a helm. Along with the others I enjoyed one of these slides. The great speed and the gathering momentum were an experience one will never forget. It

so rejuvenates one as to make even an old person feel young again. Many had repeated slides and enjoyed them with great zest, but others contented themselves with what they would reckon a record run. The weather of Montreal is sunny and bracing. Their famous winter carnivals with their ice palaces, hockey, masquerades, snow-shoe processions by torchlight, their bouncing of a friend, and other quite unique entertainments make Montreal winter life most entertaining, delightful and health-giving. The Caledonian Club erected the magnificent arch seen in the picture in honour of the Scottish visitors. It was, indeed, a work of art, and was greatly admired. Within the rink were neatly cut Hogs from ice-blocks which were set up to keep guard at the Hog score. Montreal is certainly a head-centre of curling. There are six clubs in the city. Many of them have most excellent club-houses and rinks. Here we got very badly beaten in curling. The curlers were all very good players. In all the matches they played against us with stones which are generally designated granites or rocks, and the best players in the world could not wish for better curlers than they are. In every point of the game they were experts. The Montrealers, however, play with a curling stone made of iron, about 60 lbs. weight. One of the games was played with irons, when all the rinks were made up of players born in Scotland against the Canadian born, but in this encounter, which was much enjoyed by the visiting team, victory rested with the Canadians. In regard to

At the Ice Arch, Montreal.

the preference which the Montrealers had for irons instead of "rocks," Colonel Stevenson said the reason for it would be found in the Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 8, in verses 8 and 9, where in exhortation to obedience the Canadians are promised—"a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, and vines and fig trees and pomegranates—a land of oil, olive and honey; a land where thou shalt eat bread without scarceness; thou shalt not lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass." Some members of our team engaged the ladies in a curling match. Afterwards a brilliant reception was held in honour of the event. As in the game at Quebec our team suffered defeat at the hands of the lady curlers, who were experts and enthusiastic players. That game was also played with the small irons. Many people have laughed at the victory of the lady curlers, and some have tried to find the reason for the result. Those who have felt the influence of the ladies most will readily believe that their charm, aided by their great skill, accounted for the defeat of the Scotsmen. While in Montreal our team played at the town of Westmount, on the outskirts of the city, where the curling club entertained us right well. Not a few of our team retain very kindly memories of the delightful visit to Westmount. The Mayor and Corporation, the St Andrew's Society, all the curling clubs, and many noted citizens feted us. The team attended a special service in Dr Barclay's church,

where that keen, keen curler and eminent divine thoroughly refreshed us with an excellent sermon. One special feature of the service was the organ voluntaries on a grand organ, played with excellent taste and feeling. We heard such touching tunes as "The Land o' the Leal," "Home, Sweet Home," "The Flowers o' the Forest," and other Scottish melodies played in the sweetest and most endearing tones. The choir was a perfect one. Here, let me say that the choir singing, in which there are invariably one or more appropriate solos, was all through Canada most beautiful. The quality and balance of tone, the intelligent expression and the correct deportment of the singers were everywhere excellent. One of the many pleasant outings was a sleigh drive to Lachine, where the farm and mills of the Messrs Ogilvie were visited, affording insight into the working of them which was gratifying to the visitors. On the way home a detour was made on the St Lawrence river, where ice harvesting was seen. In Canada ice is constantly used throughout the year. It is served for use for many purposes. It is quite customary for a person to hire a house, and in the hire are included ice, electric light and telephone. Large stores of ice are collected everywhere, and it forms quite a regular industry. Our team played a game at Lachine rink one evening. Many visitors were present to see the game. Our Captain addressed the assemblage at the conclusion of the match, and our friend, Mr Provan,

treated them to a Scotch song which was greatly enjoyed, as many of the visitors joined heartily in the chorus. After a week of supreme but constant hospitality and enjoyment we were entertained to a farewell banquet in the Windsor Hotel. The dining hall was brilliantly decorated for the occasion by multi-coloured designs in electric light throughout the gorgeous room. The Royal Arms, the Scottish Lion, the Maple Leaf, and other effective designs were most elaborately displayed at the ends and sides of the hall in a setting of dazzling brilliance that I have never seen surpassed. The other decorations of foliage, banners and flowers, and the whole setting constituted a scene of beauty that one cannot well describe. The company would number many hundreds, under the genial presidency of Colonel Stevenson. The curlers of Montreal, those from a wide district, and all the men of light and leading were gathered in honour of the Scottish visitors. At this banquet the haggis, before being served to the company, was carried round the room to a pibroch accompaniment. This custom was faithfully carried out amidst the greatest enthusiasm at all the notable banquets during the tour. The speeches and the singing were worthy of the great occasion. Many of the company went round soliciting the autographs of the team, which were readily given, and when "Auld Lang Syne" was sung by the great gathering our hearts were deeply touched by the unmistakeable warmth of Canadian love. Yet this or other gatherings did not melt away until all had fervently sung "God Save the King."

CHAPTER VI.

IN THE CAPITAL OF THE DOMINION.

Next morning a great gathering assembled at the station to wish us good-bye. Many personal souvenirs were given to members of the team indicating how deeply some hearts must have been touched. The train soon steamed off for Ottawa, the capital of the Dominion of Canada, where we safely arrived on a Saturday. The barometer had risen above freezing point when we arrived here, but a great number of curlers and others interested in our arrival were at the station to greet us. After settling to quarters in the Russell House, we were entertained to luncheon under the presidency of Mr Manuel, a successful Scotch gentleman whose relatives live at Treesbank, near Harthill. This gentleman entertained some of our team to dinner, including the two Bathgate representatives, and it was at his house that we first saw the gas lit from the electricity of the body. Some people will most likely be sceptical of this, but the fact is that given a low freezing temperature any one can, by simply rubbing his feet across the floor be able to generate as much electricity as will enable him to light the gas from the point of his finger. I witnessed this done, but I do not guarantee that you will perhaps be able in

The Governor General and Lady Minto and Party
with the Scottish Curlers at the Ice Palace,
Government House, Ottawa.

this country to discontinue the use of matches yet for a time. In Ottawa we played on three rinks, and with fair success. On the evening of our arrival we attended a great hockey match between Montreal and Ottawa clubs. This was most keenly contested, the demonstrative character of the onlookers was at the highest pitch, and in the fast play the excitement ran very high. Hockey is played in the skating rink. It is virtually a game of shinty on skates, with goals at each end, with opposing teams. We were also invited to a skating entertainment in one of the rinks another evening. The ladies of Ottawa sent out the invitations and provided the music and the refreshments in the club-rooms. All the elite, youth, and beauty of the Capital were there. The party are led on to the waltzes and other dances on skates by His Excellency the Governor-General, Lord Minto. Lady Minto and her daughter are most accomplished skaters. Their presence at these regular skating carnivals gives an added zest to the delightful pastime. Along with all the curlers of Ottawa the team were invited to dine at Government House with His Excellency, Lord Minto, to play on the rink there and on the open pond outside, where we were all photographed, including the Governor, Lady Minto, their family, and a representative group. The luncheon at Government House was very excellent. The table decoration deserves a special notice. The entire tables were set out to represent Canada. The centre of the table was all snowed to illustrate its snow-clad

state. Trees were set in the snow typical of its forests, while a representation of the St Lawrence River ran throughout. The effect was very pretty indeed. On the Sunday night our team were invited to hear a special sermon by Dr Herridge of Ottawa, who is a curler, and one of the most eloquent of preachers in Canada. Here again my observations on the organ and choir and solo singing may be summarised in the words, most delightful. Dr Herridge, before proceeding with the sermon, extended to the visiting team the warm welcome of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. It may not be out of place if I state what of course may be known to many present, that throughout Canada there is but one Presbyterian Church, they knowing not any division, but all combine to advance the coming of Christ's Kingdom. May we not express the hope that the example of the great and kind Canadians may with great results be followed by our dear old Scotland in the union of all Presbyterians, and when this comes to pass I trust that it will be laid down in the wider and broader constitution of the larger Church that every minister, elder, deacon and member must become a curler, as it seems to me there is no broader or more humanising influence than the democratic brotherhood of curlers. The Parliament buildings of Ottawa were visited and much admired. Here as everywhere we met many people belonging to Bathgate and district enquiring for friends. It was no uncommon sound to hear in some of the rinks such an expression as this—"Hoo are ye a' at Bathgate?"

from one who had come to see the curlers. At the social meetings the applause offered to a singer or speaker was offered in these words:—Sis boom bah; Sis boom bah; Ottawa, Ottawa, Ra, Ra, Ra. Leaving Ottawa we next visited Peterborough, where we got a magnificent reception. On arrival we found the station crowded, there were nearly a thousand people, a cadet corps was present as a guard of honour, a brass band was present to play us into town, while ladies and gentlemen and children crowded every part. A curling bonspiel was in progress here, about 300 curlers with besoms upraised forming an escort to a long cavalcade of sleighs, in which we were driven to our hotel through the principal streets. All along the route the inhabitants lined up the pavements in great numbers and nodded their welcome. This was, in my opinion, the most effusive and demonstrative welcome yet experienced, and they entertained us also right royally. In Peterborough we visited the Edison Electric Works, The Quaker Oats Factory, and the Government Canal Hydraulic Works, all giving evidence of modern thought and appliances and faith in the progress and future greatness of Canada. At the next place visited, Lindsay, we were most enthusiastically received. Here we were entertained by a curling club conducted on teetotal lines, which was one of three we met with similarly conducted. Here, as at Peterborough, we found splendid curlers and right kind people. Toronto was next reached. We were ac-

companied from the station by many members of the Ontario Curling Clubs and curlers of Toronto and played into quarters by a stalwart band of pipers. We were met in the hotel by very many friends, offering us every attention and hospitality during our stay. At every place of importance our team were offered the free use of all the best clubs. The Toronto Clubs had, however, scheduled all our time during our three days' stay, and most of our team were disappointed that they had not more time to visit friends. The Mayor and Corporation gave us a drive round the city, and showed us the Parliament House, where we were most kindly received by the Premier, Mr Ross, who extended to us a hearty welcome. The University, Town Hall, and other public buildings were visited, and afterwards we were entertained to lunch in the best restaurant in the city. We played in all the club rinks of Toronto, which are all large and well-equipped. The curlers of Toronto, like their friends in Montreal, are all splendid players, and here, as in Montreal, our team got badly beaten. Toronto, frequently called the Queen City, is beautifully situated on the north shore of Lake Ontario, and is one of the largest and most prosperous cities of the Dominion. Its beautiful scenery, its picturesque parks, its handsome public buildings, its beautiful churches, colleges and residences, make it very attractive. The town is up-to-date, and gives me the impression of being a great business city. It is the great seat of learning. Our team visited the harvesting machinery works of Massey-Harris, and

they were delighted with all they saw. A special feature of Toronto was the ice yachting. The yachts, on rollers, are sailed on the frozen lake up to sixty miles an hour. Ice-yachting is quite as invigorating and exciting as an ice-slide ,and many of our team enjoyed the novelty in ice navigation. In Toronto, as in every city and town visited, we were presented with badges and distinctive souvenirs from every curling club. Many of them are distinctly appropriate and pretty, and will ever be much treasured by us as loving links in the chain of fond Canadian and States memories.

CHAPTER VII.

NIAGARA FALLS AND THE GARDEN OF ONTARIO.

Instead of the many clubs in Ontario Province coming into Toronto to play there with us, our team spent a week visiting many of the outlying clubs. We were booked to play at Hamilton on Monday morning We accordingly left Toronto on the Sunday morning, travelling to Niagara, where we were met by the curlers, who, strange as it may appear, were nearly all Irishmen. They, as is the warm and hearty manner of their race, most kindly entertained us. Afterwards we visited the Rapids and then drove out to see the Falls of Niagara. Everybody is familiar with the Niagara controversy over the team breaking the Sabbath Day, but I will not enter upon it except to say that we were greatly impressed by the grand spectacle of nature, and our conscience does not feel any additional burden. On the way we passed through the largest fruit producing area in Canada. Here peaches, grapes, apples, quinces and plums are raised in the greatest profusion Some 900 square miles are available for growing these in Ontario, while in the whole valley of St Lawrence an area of 30,000 square miles is suited by soil and climate for the vine. Well may we call this district the garden

At the Whirlpool Rapids, Niagara

of Ontario. It was the best land we had seen, all of orchard and fruit cultivation. The growth is so great that they sell grapes at 4 lbs. for a half-penny. The canning-houses are everywhere. We cross the River Jordan and the Welland Canal. This canal runs from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario, with sixteen locks in the distance. This canal takes ships of 3000 tons of 14 feet draught, and the whole canal is lighted by electricity generated from the sluices. After a short journey along the banks of the Niagara River, on the Canadian side, we are attracted by the wonderful deep gorge of channel of the river, which is worn out to a great depth by the voluminous current. We hear the roar of the Falls long before we see them, and there is a distinct vibration from the concussion of the water. The whole breadth of the precipice is 1335 yards and the river is divided by Goat Island into two falls, the American Fall, width 600 feet, height 180 feet, and the Canadian Fall or Horse Shoe Fall, height 160 feet, and width 1900 feet. The volume of water which passes over it is estimated at 169 million gallons or 700 tons per second, and the power at 4,500,000 horse power. The wearing away of the Falls proceeds at the rate of one foot every year, and its retirement towards Lake Erie must have commenced some 10,000 years ago. There is still some chance, however, for my hearers to see Niagara Falls before this wonder disappears. Still it cannot be doubted that the great abstraction of water by the Power Companies on both sides of the River will to a great extent soon re-

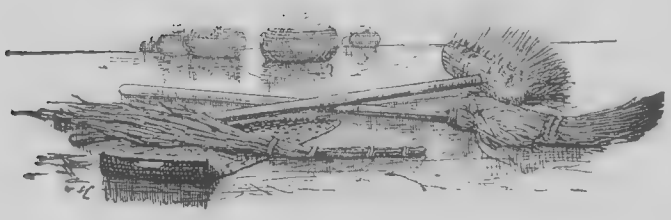
move the wonder of Niagara Falls. The electric energy obtained at present from the works on the Falls is equal to 200,000 horse power, and is being supplied for lighting and motive power to the City of Buffalo, 20 miles distant, and throughout the surrounding country within a radius of thirty miles. On the Canadian side of the Falls similar works for the generation of electric power for lighting and industrial purposes, and particularly for transmission to Toronto, are in progress, so that soon this mighty power of water will be harnessed to work for lighting and motive power of tramways, and for manufacturing purposes greatly cheapening the cost of production, and in many ways adding to the wealth and well-being of Canada. On seeing Niagara one is met with such sayings—"Isn't it grand?" "Isn't it wonderful?" all expressing the various thoughts that arise, but our jokist, Mr Provan, saw Niagara in another light. He said Niagara Falls were nothing wonderful, they could not help falling, and it would have been a great wonder if they had fallen up. The spray or vapour from the Falls is carried to the trees in the vicinity, where it freezes on the leaves and branches and presents a veritable diamond forest scene. We next find ourselves in Hamilton, the second city of the Province, with a population of 55,000. Hamilton may be termed the electric city. Evolved out of the primeval forest in less than one hundred years it may now be truly termed in its history, government and prosperity, the Birmingham of Canada. Theirs is a

The Ice Bridge, Niagara Falls.

record of triumph over the forces of nature, by which the waters of Lake Erie are turned from their course, transformed into electric energy, and harnessed to the machinery of the city. Here we are taken for a drive on the mountain from which we behold a beautiful and prosperous city, and a rich feast of most lovely views. We played two games here, forenoon and afternoon, with fair success, losing one and winning one. Many Bathgate people living in the district came to see us at the rink. While they were all most anxious to see us at their homes in many cases long distances out, we had to confine ourselves to the programme of entertainment provided by the curlers and good citizens of Hamilton. Passing on to Guelph we there experienced a like greeting. There we visited an Agricultural College conducted by the Canadian Government for the training of farmers in all subjects of agriculture, dairywork and cheesemaking, where students attend in large numbers in regular and special courses to equip themselves for their life work. We were most hospitably entertained to luncheon by the Principal of the College, who was most ably supported in the courtesies by his charming wife and daughter. Stratford-on-Avon was next visited. This is a progressive and picturesque city. There we played two games with fair success. The curlers were most kind, but that place will ever be a green spot in my memory. We were escorted from our hotel to the banqueting hall by a procession of torch-bearers, led on by a brass band playing the air of

"Scotland Yet." Our banquet in the Town Hall was attended by the ladies, who occupied the gallery, and enjoyed the speeches and songs; their presence gave a tone and interest to the proceedings, and might well form a precedent for all others, my only regret being that some light refreshments were not served to them during the evening, as this would have made the arrangement perfect. This was the place where, after a certain Scottish curler had finished speaking the ladies rose in a body and sang "Will ye no come back again?" to which the gentlemen from Scotland at once responded in chorus, upstanding, with the refrain—"Yes we will come back again; better lo'ed ye canna be; yes we will come back again." In passing through London the curlers there drove us through the city for sight-seeing and entertained us to luncheon in their well-appointed club-rooms. We did not play there, but resumed our journey to St Thomas, where, on soft ice, we played two games, winning, I think, in both cases. We were well entertained at a great banquet in the evening, and the ladies held a reception in honour of the two Scottish ladies travelling with the team. We next find ourselves at Windsor, on the Detroit River, where an interesting programme of games and entertainments was gone through. Windsor, situated on the Canadian side, is quite a small city or town compared with the modern, bustling, up-to-date American city of Detroit. A regular and efficient ferry service of steamers takes us across the river into Detroit. There, as elsewhere,

the curlers met us, and after luncheon took our team all round the city by electric car, to view the city and surroundings. Among the places I visited were the offices of the Detroit "Free Press," where I saw the whole machinery of 50 Linotype and other machines at work in the production of this world-known newspaper. My guide also took me through the Detroit Post-Office, where numerous mails are most expeditiously dealt with; the latest machinery for stamping and sorting letters was a revelation in speed and method, and seems much in advance of our methods. In Detroit we played one game, on ice a little damp, and came out winners all round. Here, as elsewhere, there were many friends, all interested in the visitors, and all full of kindly enquiries for many in Scotland. It is proposed to throw a bridge over the Detroit River, and no doubt many of us may live to see this completed. From here we pass on to Toronto.



CHAPTER VIII.

IN THE PRIMEVAL FOREST.

Next morning we find ourselves aboard the Canadian Pacific Railway, bound for Winnipeg. From Toronto to Winnipeg is some 1400 to 1500 miles, and as the journey occupies more than two days travelling day and night, the team felt grateful for the respite from excitement, and enjoyed a much-needed rest in the very luxurious Pullman. This railway to Winnipeg only opened in 1885 realised the dream of many for a railway all the way on British soil from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It was found to be both a political and commercial necessity. In this great enterprise, which is destined to accomplish such great results in the progress of Canada and the British Empire, Mr R. B. Angus, a native of Bathgate, has borne an honoured part as one of the syndicate who financed this great project. It has been a great and growing success, and will yet be the means of securing great wealth and prosperity to its shareholders and to hundreds of thousands of settlers from this and other lands who, utilising their resources, will find their products carried to the markets of the world and transformed into gold. Mr Angus, who showed us great kindness at his beautiful home in Montreal, is a director of the Canadian

Pacific Railway. He is a brother of the late Mr Alexander Angus, merchant of this town, who for such a long time took an active interest in the conduct of affairs of this place. The surveys for the Canadian Pacific Railway had made known the character of the country. In the wilderness east, north and west of Lake Superior forests of pine and other timber and mineral deposits were found, and millions of acres of agricultural land as well. Villages and towns and even cities followed close upon the heels of the line builders, the forests were cleared away, the Prairie's soil was turned over, mines were opened, and not only the trade from the golden shores of the Pacific, from California to Alaska, but from across that broad ocean the tea and silk trade of China and Japan are brought in exchange for the fabrics of Europe and North America. Our journey to Winnipeg was not only restful but very interesting. At intervals of four or five hours we came to divisional stations, where there are workshops, engine sheds, and quite a collection of neat cottages. Here curlers join the train, bound for the great Bonspiel at Winnipeg, with whom we fraternise and enjoy each other's company. It is a long journey, but the ever recurring rocky, pine-clad hills, pretty lakes, dark forests, glistening streams and cascades keep our interest alive; all are alert for the sight of a bear or a deer, but we are not fortunate. We see trains with flour and grain and products of the mines and forests on their way to the Atlantic seaboard. It was through this rough and broken country

for a distance of about 500 miles that Wolseley successfully led his army in 1870 to suppress the rebellion of the half-breeds. We pass the shores of Lake Superior, and are reminded that Great Britain and Ireland might easily be put within it, and leave some work to discover them in the midst of this the largest lake in America. By the side of the Lake we see some Indians encamped. A story told by Dr Rutherford at Ottawa may be repeated here. He said that when any died up at Winnipeg they did not bother much about the funeral but simply laid the bodies out in the cold for about half-an-hour, and then sharpened their feet and drove them into the ground. On hearing this Mr Provan exclaimed that that was how they made their fences. As we draw nearer to the Prairies we find great sawmills begin to appear, with piles of timber awaiting shipment, accumulations of timber, firewood, fence-posts, and beams and blocks for all purposes. We suddenly emerge from among trees and enter the wide, level valley of Red River, and in a little while we enter the magic city of Winnipeg. This city is called Queen of the Prairies. In 30 years Winnipeg has sprung from a population of 200 souls into a prosperous city of 50,000. Everything points to its being at no very distant date the great metropolis of Canada, with hundreds of thousands of population, for it lies at the threshold of one of the greatest granaries of the world, one whose limitless possibilities are now beginning to be understood, for men and money are pouring into this

vast region, which promises unprecedented growth. The Canadian North-West has area enough to support millions of people, and Winnipeg will be the distributing centre. Ten main or branch railway lines radiate from the city, and four different roads enter it—The Canadian Pacific, Canadian Northern, Great Northern, and Northern Pacific. Winnipeg is handsomely built. Its wide streets, its imposing banks, the City Hall, the Parliament Buildings, Colleges, Churches, hospitals and schools, give it a substantial and imposing appearance. Considerable interest attaches to the City of Winnipeg. Here was established Fort Garry, the famous headquarter of the Hudson Bay Company. Here the Company and its rival, the North-West Fur Company, met in conflict. Picturesque Fort Garry was then the rendezvous of sturdy Scotsmen, gay French voyageurs, and dusky warriors. Down the Assiniboine River floated the great boats laden with furs from the forests and plains of the far north, or in winter the Hudson Bay packet came in by dog train on the snow-bound Prairie. Later came the early settlers and the Red River cart; at last the railway came through and primitive Manitoba history ended; population rapidly flocked in, a Province was created, and a city built. Winnipeg stands at the threshold of a land of enchantment. The field for exploration is unlimited, game abounds in millions, there is the primeval condition of nature, and man lives in the most primitive style. This refers to the great north land of Canada. The great wheat belt tells a different story.

Its milions of acres of cultivable land can feed the world; its vast ranges can support countless herds. In Manitoba alone there are 12,000,000 acres of cultavable land, of which little more than a fourth is under cultivation, yielding a crop of between 50 to 60 million bushels of wheat. It will not be many years before the wheat export runs into hundreds of millions of bushels. Last harvest was so good that not even up till now can the rolling stock of the railways carry to market the great yield of wheat.

CANADIAN STONE PLAYERS, 1378.

CHAPTER IX.

FARMING IN MANITOBA.

Before I touch upon the Curling Bonspiel which brings about 800 curlers from the distant parts of Manitoba and other Provinces to the Mecca of curling, I propose, for the benefit of farming friends, to touch as shortly as possible on the agricultural aspect of Manitoba. I will not touch upon the other domains of that vast continent, which offer inducements to every class as well as farmers, but confine myself to the great West. Now, what Canada requires is population. There is always an opening for good, steady, industrious, thrifty, and sober men and women. Those with capital are specially wanted, and they will find abundant opportunities for its profitable investment in the varied resources of the country. But there is an opening both for emigrating and investing people. The classes wanted in Canada are farmers, farm labourers, mechanics, domestics, indeed any who are willing and anxious to work and make homes for themselves. When twenty thousand men went from Eastern Canada into Manitoba and the west territories to assist in harvesting the crop, some idea may be formed of the opportunities that the country offers; farmers and farm labourers can always find

work at good wages, and they have the almost certain prospect of sooner or later acquiring farms for themselves and becoming their own masters. Persons of limited means and limited knowledge of agriculture should feel their way working for a time to a farmer to obtain the knowledge necessary for working a farm, then they may either rent or purchase or take up land as a free grant. With less than £50 it is hardly possible for a man to start farming on his own responsibility; but in a year or two there is every prospect of his becoming his own landlord and master. Settlers intending to take up land must have some financial resources, with chances of success in every part of the country from £100 to £200. A farmer who can invest from £500 to £1000 has the best opportunities, as he can purchase the land, stock it, build himself houses and procure the best implements and machinery. The land is well watered by rivers, but water can always be found at depths varying from 10ft to 30ft. Railways branch out in every direction. These will be added to on requirements, and before long the whole land will be reticulated with the railway system. Contrary to preconceived ideas, the climate is much milder and decidedly healthier than several States of the American Union further south. The winter is dry and bracing; not like the raw and chilly cold that prevails in our own country. Manitoba has fewer stormy days than any other place. Windy days are very rare. Cyclones are unknown, and the sudden fluctuations from intense cold to sudden thaw have no exist-

Winnipeg Curling Rink.

ence. Little snow falls on the prairies, and horses, cattle and sheep are out most of the winter. The soil is rich, deep black mould, or loam, specially adapted for wheat or other cereals. From analysis it contains all the food necessary for cultivation from the animal and vegetable accumulations of ages Where there is deep loam there will be no necessity for manure or artificial cultivation for many generations. There are excellent marketing facilities. Along the lines are complete elevator systems where the farmers may store their grain at a nominal charge, including insurance,; but if they do not wish to sell or store, they can ship direct to the Lake ports, and dispose of their wheat there. For the proper handling of butter, cheese, etc., the railway companies have a regular refrigerator car service and co-operative creameries, under government auspices, have been established in the various districts, and have been successful, a standard quality of butter and cheese being produced which commands a higher price than the indifferent and irregular qualities made on the farms. The climate of the country is far less severe than the people of the Mother Country suppose. It is well adapted to the production and support of a hardy and enterprising race—a people who will receive from the pursuits in which they engage ample reward for their toil, who will live in a country where the climate does not enervate; and if they love justice and hate falsehood, love industry and despise idleness, and are loyal to their great privileges and good opportunities there is every reason to believe

that Canada will become as powerful and influential as any other part of the American Continent. In the matter of education Canada has long been in the front rank in popular education, and to-day she glories in one of the most free and efficient educational systems in the world. In Manitoba the schools are within easy range; one of the first things done in a newly-settled section is to build a school. The system is free, every child having the right, nay, is compelled to attend, up to a certain age. Higher schools and collegiate institutions are placed in the larger centres to qualify the students for the Colleges and Universities. As a guarantee of the value attached to education it may be stated that 1-18th part of the whole of the fertile belt running through Manitoba and the North-West Provinces is set apart for the maintenance of schools. The schools are all splendidly equipped with the most modern appliances. The teachers are all trained and certificated. The education received is non-sectarian, and confined to the secular branches, and the teaching of general public morality; the aim is to develop national character and the highest citizenship. Canada excels in special or technical education, suitable to the requirements of the people. Farming is the great industry, and facilities are afforded to the farmers and others to obtain a knowledge of agriculture on Government experimental farms in various centres. Experiments covering the whole range of Canadian farming and agriculture, are carried out by experts. Grain, seed, roots, trees and shrubs are grown on

the various soils, and the results published for the benefit of the farmers. The Government have in addition to other agencies at work instituted a travelling school of dairy instructors to deliver lectures, illustrated by practical operations in the art of butter and cheese-making, affording the settlers opportunities of knowing the best methods. In brief, every assistance is rendered the settlers by the Government. Great Britain is recognised as one of the best wheat growing countries on the globe. It has a summer heat of about 60 degrees, while the North-West Territories is given as from 60 to 65 degrees. Some must think that a long winter must be monotonous, but in the glorious game of curling this also has its balance of advantages. The subsoil throughout the intense heat of summer is kept moist by the slow melting of the winter frosts, the moisture ascending to the surface and nourishing the roots of the grain. The subject is so wide that I must refrain from want of time.

CHAPTER X.

AT THE MECCA OF CURLING.

When we reached Winnipeg a very large gathering of curlers and others awaited us and gave us a rousing welcome. Amongst them were many well-known faces of people from Bathgate and district So many pressed forward to shake us by the hand that it was some time ere we were able to depart in sleighs to the Club, where we were handsomely entertained. Many of those who welcomed us had not seen each other for a long period, while others were but lately out from home. You would have thought the coming of the Scottish team was like a breath of Scotch air to most of them, so glad were they to see us. The annual Curling Bonspiel at Winnipeg is the largest gathering of curlers for competition in the world. No doubt the grand match at Carsebreck between the North and South of Scotland produces greater numbers, but this is only for one day. The Winnipeg Bonspiel extends over two weeks or more, when about 800 curlers from near and distant parts assemble to compete by rink and point play for most valuable prizes presented for competition. One of the principal competitions was between five rinks from Scotland and five picked rinks from Winnipeg, the North-West Ter-

ritories, and British Columbia, one from Northern Ontario, and one from the United States. For this competition Lord Strathcona presented a cup to the winners. In this match Scotland got badly beaten by 50 points on four rinks, one of the Scottish rinks ending in a tie with the States players. The Canadians, however, presented a cup to the losers, presumably for losing by so few shots, and that cup, the symbol of Canadian good-will but of Scottish curling failure, is now in possession of the Royal Caledonian Club. A special prize was given to the best dressed rink at the Bonspiel, and the rink who received this honour consisted of Messrs Cousin, Johnston, Bramwell, and Gibson, who each received a silver cup. At the Bonspiel the play goes on continuously on all the rinks in the city, while a large implement store belonging to the American Abell Company was flooded, and there a great many rinks were provided for the Bonspiel. Thirty rinks in all could always be available for the various competitions. Play began about 9 a.m., the game was of 12 ends, and continued, with intermission for meals till mid-night. The Scots team fared badly in these competitions. As a rule the players were crack rinks, some coming very long distances to engage in the play. In justice to the rink that I played with in Winnipeg —I should say in the principal competition, the New York Challenge Cup—they were unbeaten, and we felt that no consideration was shown us by the team in leaving before we were played out or had won the trophy. In Winnipeg we were most hospit-

ably entertained by the curling clubs and by the St Andrew's Association, while many citizens entertained us at their homes, and gave us driving excursions. A great entertainment was given in the Winnipeg Theatre one evening; the talent was splendid. During the evening Loving Cups were presented to the Scottish team. The theatre was filled with curlers, and the songs and speeches were vociferously cheered We were taken to see almost the only remaining herd of buffaloes, kept in a reserve by Lord Strathcona. with the view of preventing the extermination of these noble animals, who, until the advent of the white man, roamed over the Prairies in millions. A special sermon was preached to the whole of the curlers by the Rev. Dr Kilpatrick, and many were unable to gain admission. The service was very impressive, the singing of the choir was of a very high order, and a distinctive feature was the splendid solo singing of Mr Forrest Angus, a native of Bathgate. After a very good time we again assembled at the railway station en route for St Paul. The crowd of curlers and others to see us off was very great; the amount of handshaking was very extraordinary; indeed, it was with difficulty the team could reach their car. When at last all were aboard the captain addressed the assemblage, thanking them for all their kindness to the Scottish team. The expression on their faces I shall never forget, betokening the most cordial feelings of goodwill and affection. While the train steamed away we sang "Auld Lang Syne," which was received by

the waving of handkerchiefs, and the hearty cheers of the kindly Manitobans. Before we leave Canada I will say that everywhere the Canadians seemed abreast of the times. Electric cars, electric lighting, telephones, heating, strict regulations in the interest of health for spitting and smoking, long distance telephones, post-office box arrangements, every river utilised for power, the newest appliances and machinery in mills and manufactories, all show that they are living up-to-date. Some may wish to have my impression of the Canadians. In my opinion they are a splendid people. A great many whom we met were Scotsmen or their descendants, but I make no distinction between them and those of English or Irish parentage, or even of American birth, for the same characteristics mark the whole people. They appear all to be much improved by their wider life. Their environment has in large measure removed the narrow provincialism which marks our parochial life. None of those pettinesses which prevent us appearing at our best are noticeable, their newer and wider conditions have enlarged their life, and we see more human brotherhood amongst them. I was pleased to find a high temperance sentiment prevailing throughout Canada. The conditions of living are intense; Canada is not the home for the loafer or the indolent; there all men work regularly and hard in every department of life; they also take their pleasures with a keen zest; the pressure of life with the dry, bracing air makes them keen and

alert and higher-strung than ourselves; they are intense even in their loyalty to the Mother Country; their watchword is Canada for the Canadians, under the folds of the glorious Union Jack. Then let me just say a word or two about the Canadian ladies. In Canada the status of woman is better than in this country. Of course I speak as a whole; there they are given greater and higher privileges than is the case here; they take a part in many social functions, their freer life and style of living make them more natural and companionable, their frank and open manner, begotten of equal privileges with man, gives them that confidence in their own powers which places them amongst the leading women of the time.

CHAPTER XI.

HOMEWARD BOUND.

Passing through the vast Prairie land after leaving Winnipeg we see a great vista of this wonderfully resourceful land, all covered slightly with snow, dotted with homesteads everywhere, and stretching away to the horizon in a long, flat, limitless plain. We stop at Bathgate Station en route, so named in compliment to one of the Canadian Pacific Railway, Mr R. B. Angus, a native of Bathgate, but we pass along, and after the day and night journey we arrive in Minneapolis. The Mayor welcomed us to the Flour City, and afterwards we were entertained at the Commercial Club. We then visited the famous Minnehaha Falls, returning to play in the evening with varying success. St Paul, situated on the other side of the River Mississippi, is another large city. Here the curlers gave us a hearty welcome, and entertained us right well. In our curling here we were successful. The St Paul Club presented a silver cup to our team in token of their appreciation of our visit. This cup has also been handed over as a mark of friendship from St Paul curlers to be placed on exhibition, not as trophies won in curling, but as tokens of love from Canada and the States to the Scottish team. When you read at home that we

were winning hearts, if not winning games, you will understand that phrase more fully. We now find ourselves in the great City of Chicago, where we played and won all our games on two of their rinks. We were banquetted and entertained, and saw many Bathgate people who had made Chicago their home. They were succeeding in life, and many sent messages with Dr Kirk and myself to relatives and friends in the old country. Mr Robert Calder, son of the late James Calder, and his estimable wife, were specially kind to the Bathgate representatives. Our team visited the Stockyards and many interesting parts of the city but I must pass on for want of time without referring to this huge and many-sided city. I may tell a story which I heard there, however. A gentleman said: "One night I was standing in the street in Chicago, just standing on my feet. A policeman came up. (He was usually standing too, but this time he was walking.) The policeman said: 'Say stranger, do you understand the game of draughts?' I said yes. I play a fair game of draughts." 'Well,' he said, 'it's your move.' So I moved, you bet." We visited Utica, where we played with the club there. They were most kind in every way. There we met many curlers from New York, who had come to meet us; and there, too, were many curlers from Montreal who, desirous of meeting us again, had come there just to say good-bye before we sailed for home. After arriving in New York we were received by the Mayor and welcomed to the city. The curlings clubs acted as guides in

showing us the city so full of novelty and interest. We played on Hoboken and New York rinks against curlers from Boston and other clubs in the State and City, and won all our games, thus terminating the long and interesting curling tour with success. The result of the whole games gave us 47 gains, 49 losses, and three games drawn, so that taken all over we almost held our own. The Scottish Societies and Curling Clubs of New York entertained us at a magnificent banquet in the Hotel Manhattan the night before we sailed for home. At that function many of the best citizens attended. There, too, were many leading Canadians who desired to be with us the last evening on American soil. The gathering was a most enthusiastic one, and showed the strong bond of friendship between the City of New York and Scotland. Next day found us on the way to the s.s. "Lucania," of the Cunard Line, by which vessel we had booked our passage home to Liverpool. Many curlers and Bathgate friends were at the dock to say farewell. As the huge ship moved on her way the last farewells were given by those clustered on the quay, and responded to by those upon the vessel, and soon we were into mid-stream and making out to sea. We passed the great Statue of Liberty, which marks the entrance to New York harbour, but we were soon out of sight of land and speeding on to home, sweet home. Our passage was a little stormy, the wind in our left rear sending us on at the rate of some 450 miles a day. During the voyage the Scottish

team arranged a concert in the dining-room for the benefit of the Liverpool and New York Hospitals. This concert, taken part in by many of the passengers, was much enjoyed, and yielded the sum of £30. Our ship was fitted up with Marconi's electric system, and many of the passengers witnessed the sparks of messages which came to the ship. When at sea a message was received from one of the outward-going vessels of the Cunard Fleet, 73 miles off, that their ship was 12 hours late, having experienced terribly severe weather. Many dispatched messages to their friends before reaching land. We arrived safe and sound at Liverpool, where a large contingent of the Royal Club, under the genial secretary, met us and gave the team a most hearty reception. Many Liverpool curlers were also present, and these having placed curling besoms as an arch over the gangway, the team stepped under the curling "cowes" on to terra firma. After a pleasant journey through the north of England, passing the picturesque and lovely spots of the lake district, we arrived in Auld Reekie, where our friends had assembled to meet us. We were all charmed and delighted with our glorious curling tour; our lives filled with glorious curling tour. Our lives filled with a richer experience, our hearts full of love to our brethren of Canada, and their wonderful and hospitable land, our sympathies widened for our kinsmen of the great Republic of America, all help to form a chain of fondest memories that can never perish.

A. Davidson Smith, Secy. R.C.C.C.